

CHAPTER V.—PLATES 23, 24, 25.

POMPEIAN ORNAMENT.

PLATE XXIII.

Collection of Borders from different Houses in Pompeii.—ZAHN'S *Pompeii*.

PLATE XXIV.

Various Pilasters and Friezes from different Houses in Pompeii.—ZAHN'S *Pompeii*.

PLATE XXV.

Collection of Mosaics from Pompeii and the Museum at Naples.—From the Author's Sketches.

THE ornament of Pompeii has been so ably and so fully illustrated in Zahn's magnificent work, that we have thought it only necessary for this series to borrow from him the materials for two plates, to illustrate the two distinct styles of ornament which prevail in the decorations of the edifices of Pompeii. The first (Plate XXIII.) are evidently of Greek origin, composed of conventional ornaments in flat tints, either painted dark on a light ground, or light on a dark ground, but without shade or any attempt at relief; the second (Plate XXIV.) are more Roman in character, based upon the acanthus scroll, and interwoven with ornament in direct imitation of Nature.

We refer the reader to Zahn's work* for a full appreciation of the system of ornamentation in use at Pompeii. An examination of this work will show that this system was carried to the very limit of caprice, and that almost any theory of colouring and decoration could be supported by authority from Pompeii.

The general arrangement of the decoration on the walls of the interior of a Pompeian house

* *Les plus Beaux Ornaments et les Tableaux les plus Remarquables de Pompei, d'Herculanum, et de Stabie, &c.*, par Guillaume Zahn: Berlin, 1828.